



Brooksbank Elementary School PAC Meeting Minutes- February 5, 2014

Commence: 7:08 PM

Attendees: 21

Terrie Hendrickson, Co-Chair: Welcome, introduction of guest speaker, Bernadette Voit of the North Shore Emergency Management Office.

Wonderful and informative presentation on personal emergency planning by Ms. Voit (a member of the NSEMO and the Canadian Red Cross), who described in detail the role of the NSEMO in the event of emergencies and natural disasters, with more specific attention to earthquake preparedness. Some highlights and key items of interest are as follows:

- National Emergency Preparedness Week is the first week of May each year.
- NSEMO offers a 2-night or all-day course on emergency planning, available to the public and is free to North Shore residents. Course booking information is available on the website www.nsemo.org
- Course outlines the importance of emergency planning with family/children/spouse and explains in detail items required in a home, vehicle, school, and workplace kit.
- Emphasizes that each individual family is required to be prepared to be self-sufficient for up to or more than a week, rather than the 72 hours often suggested.
- Attention was given to travel planning, road safety and emergency crews & disaster routes.
- The North Vancouver School District is by far the most prepared of all the school districts in Western Canada.
- Of particular importance is that of the Student Release. Forms distributed in September must be completed in a timely fashion, along with each student's comfort kits.
- Student Release Drills are performed every other year.
- ShakeOut BC- Is on the third Thursday of October, annually, and the next one is scheduled for Thursday, October 16th, 2014. All schools participate, and businesses and families are encouraged to participate by registering online at www.shakeoutbc.ca
- The Rapid Notify service provides mass emergency notifications and communications to residents via phone, email and SMS text. To sign up visit www.nsemo.org
- www.getprepared.gc.ca is another good source of emergency planning information.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Stirling

In the regular account, we have \$20,657.00 and in Gaming we have \$5011.00.

A delivery date has been set for the Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, May 3rd 2014, time to be announced. All orders are due April 11th.

Vice Principal's Report: Mr. Spencer Kelly

Triple Ball is well underway. The Ski Program started at Seymour on Tuesday, February 4th, and the kids are having a great time. There are approximately 70 students participating. The program that Seymour offers has proven to be very efficient and well-organized, with great staff.

DPAC Report: Chandra Junck

Highlights of the January 22nd meeting are as follows:

- The School Calendar Steering Group reports that 3 calendars were required to be presented to the Board. All parents in the district will have received an email informing them that each of these calendars is available for viewing and comment on the DPAC website. This is only available for a 30-day period, after which, it goes to the Board of Trustees.
- They are bound by the teacher's contract, and only calendar "option C" respects their contract, but "option D" is being considered as well.
- The meeting also featured a guest speaker, Mel Montgomery, PAC Chair of Cleveland Elementary School who spoke about the role of school PAC's and services offered to parents, in particular, to new parents. This has been her passion project. She initially found that getting volunteers was a difficult task, and feels that the key to overcoming this was to inspire new families and kindergarten parents. She found that by connecting with these families immediately, they felt welcomed, appreciated and much more willing to volunteer.
- Ms. Montgomery's program starts with the kindergarten tour, in the spring, prior to the new school year. She walks the tour with the new families, answers questions and gives her contact information if parents wish to follow up. By the end of the kindergarten orientation day, she has collected everyone's contact information and has sent out a welcome email that evening.
- She hosts 3 social "events" throughout the summer prior to the start of school in September, to allow new parents and families to get together and bond.
- She discourages the kindergarten parents from volunteering at school events, but rather suggests they focus their energy by volunteering in their child's classroom.
- New families to the school receive a welcome email. She invites them to her home for coffee and has her own children there so that new kids have a chance to play and learn some new faces right away. She also provides information packages about the school, as well as North Vancouver.

Chair Update: Terrie Hendrickson

The website has undergone some updates. The Executive is still looking into creating a PAC blog, which may be preferable to a Facebook page, as it can better control the content, comments and privacy.

Scholastic Book Fair: Catherine Stride

- Call for volunteers for lunchtime and after school shifts from Monday, February 17 to Thursday, February 20th.
- Also required are a few people to set up the morning of February 14th at 9:30 am. Each volunteer shift is approximately 30 minutes.
- Staff members will be given time on the 14th to browse for items on their classroom wish list.
- Kindergarten classes will also be given some extra time during their library period to help them choose their purchases without a large crowd.
- Volunteers will be entered into a draw for prizes.
- Approximately 30% of sales come back to the school to help stock the library.

Two Rivers Meats: Lisa Forrest

- We have received \$250.00 from sales so far. \$25.00 from each \$125.00 case (a one month supply) comes back to the PAC. Some meat is certified organic, while all is 100% non-medicated and comes from local farms.
- The deadline for the next order is February 19th, and order forms will be emailed through class reps.
- Two Rivers requires a minimum of 20 orders to deliver to the school directly. They will also consider creating custom orders if enough families order.

Round Table:

Allyson Helgason: Has proposed the idea of creating a Brooksbank Facebook page for sharing school updates and reminders, perhaps one for primary grades and another for intermediate. Parents are welcome to contact Allyson directly for more information about the current parents page.

Catherine Stride: The Annual Sutherland Gala is happening on April 12th, and is a Motown theme. Parents are encouraged to attend this fun evening. A representative from the Sutherland PAC will be present at the March meeting to discuss this further.

The Brooksbank Parents Night is being planned for May 23rd. We are raising money for a new sound system that will benefit the school music program for concerts, assemblies and other school events. The PAC encourages families to ask their personal or business contacts for potential auction items for both the live and silent auctions. A donation request letter is available through Catherine Stride or Terrie Hendrickson.

Shelley Beddow: Cooperators Insurance Services has offered \$1000.00 towards the event, and has pledged to do so every year.

Adjourn: 9:06 pm.

Next PAC Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th, 2014